

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 01017 091926Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 W
-----053200 100539Z /10

R 091315Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8640
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1017

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGEN, PINS, SREF, WZ, MZ
SUBJECT: SWAZI EMBASSY MAPUTO VIEWS ON SWAZI-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS

1. VISITING BLS DESK OFFICER MCCORMICK MET IN MAPUTO MAY 6 WITH SWAZI EMBASSY CHARGE GAMEDZE TO DISCUSS GOS-GPRM RELATIONS AND REFUGEES. GAMEDZE WAS RECENTLY REASSIGNED FROM WASHINGTON TO MAPUTO TO STRENGTHEN WHAT HE SAYS GOS BELIEVED WAS KEY BUT WEAK POST.

2. GAMEDZE SAID RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE DECEMBER WHEN GOS SENT DELEGATION TO MAPUTO TO COMPLAIN OF ELEMENTS IN GPRM WHO, HE SAID, WERE ACTIVELY CONSPIRING TO BRING DOWN SWAZI GOVERNMENT. GAMEDZE SAID MACHEL HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF ANTI-GOS ACTIVITIES WITHIN BRANCHES OF GPRM AND ASSURED SWAZIS
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PAGE 02 MASERU 01017 091926Z

HE WOULD BRING THESE TO A HALT. GAMEDZE SAID THESE ACTIVITIES HAD INCLUDED FINANCING OF SOME SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN SWAZILAND BUT HAD BECOME MOST WORRISOME TO GOS WHEN THEY BEGAN TO INVOLVE DELIBERATE DISRUPTION OF SWAZI EXPORTS THROUGH MAPUTO. ACCORDING TO GAMEDZE, MACHEL WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY SWAZI DELEGATION'S ALLEGATIONS AND MOVED PROMPTLY TO STOP ANY ANTI-GOS ACTIVITIES BY SOME MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, THIS THREAT TO

SWAZI EXPORT LIFELINE HAD FRIGHTENED GOS INTO FINAL DECISION TO BUILD LONG-DEBATED ALTERNATIVE RAILROAD LINK TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH IN GAMEDZE'S OPINION WAS UNECONOMIC MOVE JUSTIFIABLE ONLY IF ANTI-SWAZI ELEMENTS IN GPRM HAD NOT BEEN REINED IN BY MACHEL.

2. GAMEDZE BELIEVES ANTI-SWAZI FACTION IN GPRM IS CONCENTRATED AMONG PORTUGUESE AND GOAN COMMUNISTS WHO HE CLAIMS HOLD DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE IN GPRM AT EXPENSE OF NATIVE MOZAMBICANS. HE BELIEVES SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO MARXIST-LENINIST IDEOLOGY AND RHETORIC IS STRONGEST AMONG THIS GROUP AND SAYS HE HAS EXPERIENCED FEW DIFFICULTIES WITH "AFRICAN" MEMBERS OF GPRM IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND SWAZI-MOZAMBICAN TRADE RELATIONS. GAMEDZE DENIES REPORT RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON OF A RECENT SECRET MEETING BETWEEN MACHEL AND KING SOBUZA TO DISCUSS EXPANDED TRADE, SAYING SOBUZA "HATES TO TRAVEL" AND THAT CONTACTS TOOK PLACE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED. HOWEVER, HE CONFIRMS INCREASING GOS WILLINGNESS EXPAND COMMERCIAL TIES WITH MOZAMBIQUE NOW THAT MBABANE'S CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY BEGINNING TO EASE.

3. GAMEDZE SAID DESPITE SWAZI DECISION TO REQUIRE VISAS OF ALL MOZAMBICAN VISITORS AS OF MAY 1, GOS DID NOT PLAN TO RESTRICT VISITOR TRAFFIC AND ACTUALLY INTENDED TO EASE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO SWAZILAND BY COMMUNIST-BLOC REPRESENTATIVES IN MAPUTO (WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO BE ABLE TO GO TO SWAZILAND TO BUY FOOD AND CONSUMER GOODS NOT AVAILABLE IN MAPUTO). HE SAID REAL GOS CONCERN

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PAGE 03 MASERU 01017 091926Z

WAS OVER (A) NUMBER OF MOZAMBICANS ILLEGALLY SETTLING IN SWAZILAND TO ESCAPE SPARTAN ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGH SWAZI WAGE LEVELS; AND (B) INFILTRATION OF AGENTS BY GPRM TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND. GAMEDZE SAID GOS BELIEVES SIGNIFICANT MINORITY OF REFUGEES FROM BOTH MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE ACTUALLY GPRM OR SAG SECURITY AGENTS. ASKED ABOUT UNHCR REPORTS THAT THREE MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES (SUPPOSEDLY FRELIMO DESERTERS) HAD RECENTLY BEEN RETURNED TO MOZAMBIQUE AND MIGHT FACE SEVERE PUNISHMENT, GAMEDZE SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THEY HAD BEEN GPRM AGENTS AND WOULD BE FREED BY MOZAMBICANS. AT LEAST, IT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HIM THAT THEY HAD BEEN SEEN WALKING FREELY ABOUT MAPUTO.

4. GAMEDZE SAID HE HAD ARGUED AGAINST GOS' RECENT CRACKDOWN ON PAC ACTIVISTS AMONG THE REFUGEES ON GROUNDS THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD TAKE THEM ONCE THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON THESE CHARGES. INSTEAD, HE FELT GOS SHOULD HAVE APPROACHED PRESIDENT NYERERE FOR ADVANCE AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT THEM IN TANZANIA AND THEN SIMPLY PUT THEM ON PLANES FOR DAR ES SALAAM. HE PERSONALLY SYMPATHIZED WITH PAC AND NOT ANC, BUT WAS CONVINCED THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ARRESTED PAC ACTIVISTS WAS GENUINE. HE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO GO TO DAR ES SALAAM TO ESCORT PAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE LEADER LIBALO TO SWAZILAND

VIA MAPUTO TO WARN KING SOBUZA OF PAC "CONSPIRACY" AGAINST GOS.
GAMEDZE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT AT MEETING BUT UNDERSTOOD GOS, AFTER
INTERNAL DEBATE, HAD DECIDED TO MAKE ARRESTS ONLY ON BASIS OF
ACTUAL EVIDENCE SUPPLIED RATHER THAN ON BASIS OF LIBALO'S
"HIT LIST" SINCE LATTER WOULD INVOLVE GOS IN INTERNAL PAC POWER
PLAY. NOW THAT THREAT HAD BEEN NIPPED IN BUD, HE FELT GOS
WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST REMAINING REFUGEES. HE CONCEDED THAT IT
WAS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PASS REFUGEES ON TO RESETTLEMENT
COUNTRIES, BUT SAID IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REFOUL THEM TO
SOUTH AFRICA.
STOKES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REFUGEES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MASERU01017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-1038
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780579/aaaacpgm.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 078b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2749910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZI EMBASSY MAPUTO VIEWS ON SWAZI-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, OGEN, PINS, SREF, WZ, MZ, (MCCORMICK, KEITH), (GAMEDZE, ELLIOT B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/078b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014